

SYN. NO. _____

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

January 4, 2005

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has informed the County of its preliminary decision to terminate King/Drew Medical Center from the Medicare program due to concerns over the failure to properly manage psychiatric patients. The psychiatric patients treated at King/Drew are often brought in by the police because of their violent behavior and the threat they pose to themselves and others. Historically, County Police have participated in the team assigned to manage and restrain patients who are behaving violently. However, CMS has indicated that armed police should not be involved in patient care and should only be called when all clinical approaches have been exhausted to calm the patient down.

There is a lot of confusion as to exactly what CMS is and is not willing to permit with regard to police involvement in managing these patients. We need to make sure that when armed police are called they are not prevented from fully performing their police duties. I think it is important to obtain a clear report from the Department of Health Services about the specific issues involved.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT the Board of Supervisors instruct the Director of Health Services to make a presentation at the January 4, 2005, Board meeting to explain the specific issues associated with the involvement of County Police officers in managing these patients and the steps being taken to correct these problems and ensure the safety of patients and staff at King/Drew Medical Center.